

I claim:

1. A method of decorating a surface of an item that has an area adapted to display a design, comprising the steps of:

5 (a) covering the area with a surface preparatory composition that has an initial first state that allows it to be spread onto the surface of the item as a preparatory layer;

10 (b) providing a pattern sheet with the pattern formed thereon in a medium that will transfer onto said surface preparatory composition when in the initial state; and

15 (c) contacting said preparatory layer with said pattern sheet and the pattern thereon for a sufficient time to allow said medium to transfer onto said preparatory layer where a transferred pattern transfers onto said preparatory layer.

5 2. A method according to claim 1 including the step of removing said pattern sheet from contact with said preparatory layer after the transferred pattern has been transferred thereon yet before said preparatory layer has cured.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said surface preparatory composition includes a solvent carrier base material.

3. A method according to claim 2 wherein said solvent carrier is water based.

5. A method according to claim 1 wherein said surface<sup>4</sup> preparatory composition is curable to a final state that forms a stable layer adhered to the surface and including the step of curing said preparatory layer into the final state thereby fixing the transferred pattern.

4 6. A method according to claim <sup>1</sup>/<sub>5</sub> wherein the initial state of said preparatory composition is a wetted state and the final state of said preparatory composition is a dried state, the step of curing said wet layer being accomplished by allowing said preparatory layer to dry into said stable layer.

4 5 7. A method according to claim <sup>1</sup>/<sub>5</sub> including the step of applying a decorative substance onto said stable layer.

6 8. A method according to claim <sup>5</sup>/<sub>7</sub> wherein the transferred pattern includes a plurality of design elements and wherein said decorative substance is applied in a manner corresponding to the design elements appearing on the transferred pattern.

7 9. A method according to claim 1 wherein the step of providing the pattern sheet is accomplished by providing a transfer sheet and by drawing the pattern on said transfer sheet in said medium at a time relatively contemporaneously with the step of covering the area with said surface preparatory composition.

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8 ~~10~~. A method according to claim ~~8~~ wherein said transfer sheet is printed with a preprinted pattern, the step of drawing the pattern on said transfer sheet being accomplished by tracing the preprinted pattern with said medium.

9 ~~11~~. A method according to claim 1 wherein the step of providing the pattern sheet is accomplished by providing a transfer sheet that is pre-printed with the pattern in said medium.

10 ~~12~~. A method according to claim 1 wherein said surface preparatory composition is nontoxic to humans.

11 ~~13~~. A method according to claim 1 wherein said surface preparatory composition is water based.

14. A method according to claim 1 wherein said surface preparatory composition is selected from a group consisting of: non-animal glues, animal glues, pastes and egg white.

16 ~~15~~. A method according to claim ~~14~~ wherein said surface preparatory composition is a stick glue.

16. A product formed by a method of claim 1.

17. A method of decorating a surface of an item of produce that has an area of sufficient size to display a design, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a pattern sheet with the pattern pre-printed thereon in a selected medium;

(b) covering the area with a surface preparatory composition that has an initial first state that allows

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it to be spread onto the surface of the item as a preparatory layer yet which cures into a final state to form a stable layer adhered to the surface, said selected medium being selected as one that will transfer onto said surface preparatory composition when in the initial state;

(c) contacting said preparatory layer with said pattern sheet for a sufficient time to allow said medium to transfer onto said preparatory layer whereby a transferred pattern transfers onto said preparatory layer and thereafter removing said pattern sheet within a time insufficient to allow said pattern sheet to become affixed to said item of produce; and

(d) allowing said preparatory layer to cure into said final state thereby fixing the transferred pattern on said stable layer.

18. A method according to claim 17 wherein said surface preparatory composition is water based.

19. A method according to claim 18 wherein said medium is a water soluble ink material.

20. A method according to claim 18 wherein the initial state of said preparatory composition is a wetted state and the final state of said preparatory composition is a dried state, the step of curing said wet layer being accomplished by allowing said preparatory layer to dry into said stable layer.

14 11. A method according to claim 11<sup>10</sup> including the step of painting portions of the pattern on said stable layer.

22. A decorated item of produce formed by the method of claim 21.

23. An item of produce formed with a transferred pattern by the method of claim 17.

24. A kit for decorating the surface of an item that has an area adapted to display a design, comprising the steps of:

5 (a) a surface preparatory composition that has an initial first state that allows it to be spread onto the surface of the item as a preparatory layer yet which cures into a final state to form a stable layer adhered to the surface; and

10 (b) a pattern sheet having a pattern thereon formed of a medium that will transfer onto said surface preparatory composition when in the initial state.

25. A kit according to claim 24 wherein said surface preparatory composition includes a solvent carrier base material.

26. A kit according to claim 25 wherein said solvent carrier is water based.

27. A kit according to claim 24 including a plurality of pattern sheets pre-printed with different patterns.

28. A kit according to claim 24 including a plurality of decorative paints, at least some of said decorative paints being of different colors.

29. A kit according to claim 24 wherein said surface preparatory composition is nontoxic to humans.

30. A kit according to claim 24 wherein said surface preparatory composition is selected from a group consisting of: glues, pastes and egg white.

31. A kit for decorating the surface of an item that has an area adapted to display a design, comprising the steps of:

5 (a) a surface preparatory composition that has an initial first state that allows it to be spread onto the surface of the item as a preparatory layer yet which cures into a final state to form a stable layer adhered to the surface;

(b) a pattern sheet; and

10 (c) a pattern forming medium that is adapted to be placed on said pattern sheet in a selected pattern, said medium being of a type that will transfer onto said surface preparatory composition when in the initial state.

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